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for 1919. Appreciation was also expressed for the generous response to requests for membership and for support of exploration work.

The popularity of the museum as an educational center was evidenced by the visits of 1,040,000 persons during the year.

Regarding the museum's work of cooperation with the public schools, it was reported that 1,180,000 students had made use of the nature study collections which are loaned, without cost, to the schools; that 88,000 pupils had attended the lectures in the museum provided so that they might visualize the subjects treated in their studies; that 1,650 blind children had "seen" the material selected for their use and attended special lectures; that 136,500 people had made use of the collections loaned to the public libraries; and that 116,500 slides had been distributed to public-school teachers to enable them to give illustrated talks on travel and natural history subjects to their pupils. A new line of contact with the schools has been developed through a series of background lectures, given by the museum staff to the city's teachers in training, designed to give the student teachers a greater fund of information and breadth of vision and to familiarize them with the museum material and the ways in which it can be used to supplement class-room work. As a further development of this cooperative work with the public-school system, the museum's department of health, at the request of the Board of Education, has prepared a set of twenty exhibits, each set including food models, composition blocks and charts, and constituting an aid to the instruction of school children in dietary hygiene.

#### EXPEDITIONS AND ACQUISITIONS OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM

THE field work of the year included several important expeditions. In September, an expedition financed by Mr. Harry Payne Whitney and headed by Mr. Rollo H. Beck, started on a five-years' investigation of the birds of Polynesia. This is the most important expedition ever sent into the field by the department of ornithology. Mr. George K. Chorrie

collected birds in southern Ecuador, and Mr. Harry Watkins worked in Peru. Mr. H. E. Anthony collected mammals and vertebrate fossils in Jamaica and southern Ecuador. Mr. J. C. Bell obtained specimens and casts of sharks and rays at Cape Lookout, North Carolina. The department of anthropology continued excavations at the Aztec, New Mexico, ruin (which work was provided for by the Archer M. Huntington Fund), sent a party into the Grand Gulch region of Utah to explore cliff-dwellings, and began with the Bishop Museum of Honolulu a joint investigation of racial problems in Hawaii. Members of this department also represented the Museum in Honolulu at the First Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress, at which plans were made for future Polynesian exploration and investigation, in which the American Museum will participate. The department of geology made investigations in New York and Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Kentucky, Arizona, California and Hawaii, collecting in these regions being done by Curator E. O. Hovey, Associate Curator Chester A. Reeds, and Mr. E. J. Foyles. Messrs. Albert Thomson and George Olsen excavated large fossil vertebrates in Nebraska, for the department of vertebrate paleontology. Dr. Henry E. Crampton, curator of the department of invertebrate zoology, began an extended trip through the South Seas and the Far East. Dr. F. E. Lutz, associate curator of the same department, explored in Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Indiana, and Mr. F. E. Watson did field work in Jamaica. Mr. Paul Ruthling collected in Mexico and Mr. Elwood Johnson obtained specimens in Colombia for the department of herpetology. Through cooperation with the New York Zoological Society, under the supervision of Mr. C. William Beebe, collecting has been carried on for the museum in British Guiana at the Zoological Society's Tropical Research Station there.

Important new acquisitions made during the year, other than material secured by the expeditions just mentioned, included a large collection of paleolithic stone implements from Egypt, presented by August Heckscher;

a rich and varied collection of ethnological material secured by the Rev. H. B. Marx and presented by Mr. J. P. Morgan; a large archeological collection from Iroquois sites in New York state, received through bequest of Herbert M. Lloyd; a suite of 68 mineral specimens from France, presented by Professor Lacroix of Paris; minerals from Chili presented by Mr. H. F. Guggenheim, and from Bolivia, presented by Mr. H. C. Bellinger; a ball, 10 centimeters in diameter, carved from a flawless rock crystal and mounted on a bronze elephant of Hindu workmanship, presented by Messrs. Sidney and Victor Bevin; a Japanese topaz, cut egg-shape and covered with facets, weighing 1,463 carats, donated by Mr. M. L. Morgenthau; a collection of pearls and pearl-aceous growths presented by Mr. George W. Korper; a collection of marine fishes from Peru; a number of Honolulu fishes; a collection of fresh water fishes from China; a series of paleolithic implements from North Africa, selected by the French archeologist, M. Henri Breuil, and purchased through the Morris K. Jesup Fund; 1,200 mammals from North China and Mongolia—the largest and most valuable collection the museum has ever received from Asia—secured by the Second Asiatic Expedition; and 3,378 specimens (the greater part of which represent species new to the museum's collections) collected by Rollo H. Beck in South America and the West Indies, and presented by Mr. Frederick F. Brewster. This last mentioned item is the most valuable gift the Department of Ornithology has ever received. The Hall of Geology has been reopened to the public, after extensive re-arrangement and improvement, which is not yet completed. The re-installation of the North Pacific Indian Hall was reported to be almost finished. Early in 1920, the American Museum purchased, through the Archer I. Huntington Fund, the pueblo ruin at Aztec, New Mexico, which it has been investigating for the last five years. It was announced last night that in due time this property as uncovered and partially restored by the museum will be presented to the United

States to become a national monument and to be administered as a national park.

#### THE BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

PARTLY by purchase and partly through the generosity of Mrs. Herman Bergholtz, Cornell University has acquired land for what Professor Needham characterizes as "the best biological field station in this country, if not in the world." The acquisition comprises nineteen and a half acres of land at the north end of the Bergholtz tract, north of Percy Field. It is bounded on the east by the Lake Road and on the west by Cayuga Street. In accordance with the specification of Mrs. Bergholtz that the money which her gift represents be used either for the endowment fund or that the land be developed and improved as the trustees should decide, it has been turned over to the College of Agriculture to be developed as an aquatic park and field station. Money for its development is already available from that appropriated by the legislature for the college building and improvement program. The gift will also be included in the endowment fund.

The waters of Indian Spring, which is included in the tract, will be used for trout ponds, and those of the lake will be used in other ponds and marshes where plants and animals may be studied in their native environment. An apiary and field station laboratory are planned, the latter to cost about \$15,000. Because the area includes swamp, running water and high land, it is considered to be almost ideal for the purpose for which it will be used. Unlike the fresh water field stations along the Great Lakes, the weather conditions permit experimenters to work most of the year instead of only about six months.

Mayor Edwin C. Stewart, of Ithaca, has expressed the hope that the city may develop other land in the vicinity so that all of what is now waste land at the end of the lake may eventually be a park for public use.

#### AMERICAN FOUNDATION IN FRANCE FOR PREHISTORIC STUDIES

At a meeting of the governing board of the American Foundation in France for Prehis-